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Hon. Commissioner of Patents

& Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56 and § 1.97(b), the applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of this reference is submitted herewith.

International Patent Publication No. WO 98/26341

This document was cited in the "Background of the Invention" section of the present application. Accordingly, no further discussion is believed to be necessary.

Applicant respectfully requests that this prior art be considered during the examination of this application.

No action has issued in the above-identified application therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no fee is due at this time under 37 CFR §1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,

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Karl F. Milde, Jr

Reg. No. 24,822

MILDE, HOFFBERG & MACKLIN, LLP 10 Bank Street - Suite 460 White Plains, NY 10606

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

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